

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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AND INVESTIGATIONS

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WATER, RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

CHAIR, NEW DEMOCRAT COALITION

VICE CHAIRMAN, NATO PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY

REGIONAL WHIP

Ellen O. Tauscher
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
10th District, California

October 10, 2007

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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FAX (202) 225-5914

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2000 CADENASSO DRIVE
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420 WEST 3RD STREET
ANTIOCH, CA 94509
TELEPHONE (925) 757-7187
FAX (925) 757-7056

www.house.gov/tauscher

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Ms. Melanie Denninger

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing this letter in support of the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

The proposed project will enable Solano Land Trust to carry out habitat restoration and grassland management measures at the 2080-acre Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve over the next twenty years. Specifically, the project will develop a comprehensive strategy to:

- Rehabilitate natural ecological processes in degraded areas of Rush Ranch;
- Restore and enhance habitats for listed species such as Suisun thistle, soft bird's beak, salt marsh harvest mouse;
- Reduce the ecological impact of non-native species, such as perennial pepperweed, that have degraded Suisun Marsh in recent years;
- Remove obstacles to inward migration of the marsh as sea level rises; and
- Enhance upland plant communities and wildlife habitat while allowing continued use for compatible grazing, public access, and environmental education.

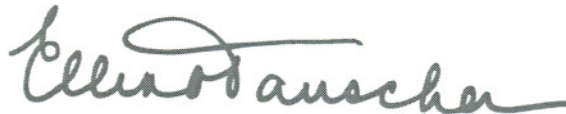
By obtaining CEQA approval for the resulting plan, this project will clear the way for on-the-ground restoration actions to move forward in the tidal marsh and adjacent uplands.

This in turn will contribute to accomplishing the regional goals of *Suisun Marsh Protection Plan*, jointly administered by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Solano County, as well as those of the *Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh*, currently

being completed by the Suisun Marsh Charter Group, and the *Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan*, which is being completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. In order to ensure these regional benefits are realized, Solano Land Trust will participate in the Suisun Marsh *Environmental Coordination Action Team* (ECAT) where it will solicit advice and guidance from the other public agencies and private interests working in the marsh.

I support this project and hope that the Solano Land Trust's grant request will be given full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law and regulations. I trust that you will keep me advised of this project's progress and I look forward to the environmental and educational opportunities this project will mean for constituents within the 10th Congressional District of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ellen O. Tauscher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" and last name "Tauscher" clearly legible.

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER
Member of Congress

cc: Solano Land Trust
Solano County Supervisor Jim Spering

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0008
(916) 319-2008
FAX (916) 319-2108
DISTRICT OFFICE
555 MASON STREET, SUITE 275
VACAVILLE, CA 95688
(707) 455-8025
FAX (707) 455-0490

E-MAIL: assemblymember.wolk@assembly.ca.gov

WEBSITE: www.assembly.ca.gov/wolk

October 12, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300,
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

Over the next twenty years, the proposed project will enable Solano Land Trust to carry out habitat restoration and grassland management measures at the 2080-acre Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve. Specifically, the project will develop a comprehensive strategy to:

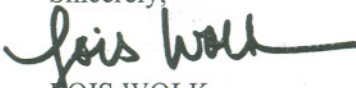
- Rehabilitate natural ecological processes in degraded areas of Rush Ranch;
- Restore and enhance habitats for listed species such as Suisun thistle, soft bird's beak, salt marsh harvest mouse;
- Reduce the ecological impact of non-native species, such as perennial pepperweed, that have degraded Suisun Marsh in recent years;
- Remove obstacles to inward migration of the marsh as sea level rises; and
- Enhance upland plant communities and wildlife habitat while allowing continued use for compatible grazing, public access, and environmental education.

By obtaining CEQA approval for the resulting plan, this project will clear the way for on-the-ground restoration actions to move forward in the tidal marsh and adjacent uplands.

This in turn will contribute to accomplishing the regional goals of *Suisun Marsh Protection Plan*, jointly administered by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Solano County, as well as those of the *Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh*, currently being completed by the Suisun Marsh Charter Group, and the *Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan*, which is being completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. In order to ensure these regional benefits are realized, I understand Solano Land Trust will participate in the Suisun Marsh *Environmental Coordination Action Team* (ECAT) where it will solicit advice and guidance from the other public agencies and private interests working in the marsh.

Solano Land Trust has proven they are equipped to take on this project by their record of preserving agriculture, protecting open space, and managing habitat resources in Solano County. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,



LOIS WOLK,
Assemblywoman, 8th District

LW:dml

Assembly California Legislature



LOIS WOLK
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, EIGHTH DISTRICT

CHAIR

WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

COMMITTEES

BANKING AND FINANCE

BUDGET

NATURAL RESOURCES

VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND
TRANSPORTATION

SELECT COMMITTEES

BIOTECHNOLOGY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FUTURE OF FARMING IN CALIFORNIA
PROCUREMENT

BOARDS

PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION

AND RENOVATION

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

COMMITTEES

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS, CHAIR
BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & TOXIC
MATERIALS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEES

BUDGET #3: NATURAL RESOURCES

SELECT COMMITTEES

CALIFORNIA WINE, CHAIR
FOSTER CARE

Assembly
California Legislature



NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

October 15, 2007

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0007
(916) 319-2007
FAX (916) 319-2107

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50 "D" STREET, SUITE 301
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(707) 546-4500
FAX (707) 546-9031

VALLEJO
1713 SONOMA BOULEVARD
VALLEJO, CA 94590
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FAX (707) 649-2311

NAPA
1040 MAIN STREET, SUITE 205
NAPA, CA 94559-2605
(707) 258-8007
FAX (707) 258-8205

EMAIL: assemblymember.evans@assembly.ca.gov
Website: democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a07

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite. 1300
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Melanie Denninger

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's (SLT) request for \$435,000 to restore and manage the 2,070-acre Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve.

The Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management project presents the state with a tremendous opportunity to improve wildlife habitat. The 1,050-acre brackish tidal marsh on Rush Ranch is the largest and most intact marsh system of this type in the entire San Francisco Bay estuary. It is rich in fish, wildlife and vegetation, including several threatened or endangered species. Since the property is bordered by approximately 5,000 acres of wildlife areas, the combined benefits of this project will be substantial.

With over 900 acres of the property supporting local ranching, this project will also demonstrate how agriculture and the environment can co-exist in balance with one another. Well-managed grazing will help native plants compete with invasive species and provide improved habitat for wildlife. Support from the Conservancy will help SLT update the land management plans of ranching operations to assure these environmental benefits.

Furthermore, this project will enhance public recreation and education opportunities. The ranch is open daily for hiking along its trails. For those with limited mobility, the nonprofit Access Adventures program provides carriage rides around the ranch. Rush Ranch also has a nature center that was just built this year and will be used for meetings and to support the work of research scientists who often work on the property. Public access to such a large restoration project will enable the public to experience and appreciate the Bay as a defining resource that needs to be protected and managed sustainably.

The Conservancy has a strong record of partnership with SLT. I hope that you look favorably on their proposal. If you have any questions, or if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Noreen Evans".

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblymember, 7th District

NE: am

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5066
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4300
TEL (916) 651-4005
FAX (916) 323-2304

DISTRICT OFFICES
31 E CHANNEL ST., ROOM 440
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FAX (209) 948-7993

1020 N STREET, ROOM 506
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FAX (916) 323-2596

1010 NUT TREE RD., #185
VACAVILLE, CA 95687
TEL (707) 454-3808
FAX (707) 454-3811

WWW.SEN.CA.GOV/MACHADO

California State Senate

MICHAEL J. MACHADO
SENATOR, FIFTH DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
BANKING, FINANCE AND
INSURANCE
CHAIR
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES AND
WATER
REVENUE AND TAXATION
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION,
GENERAL GOVERNMENT,
JUDICIAL & TRANSPORTATION
CHAIR

October 9, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Melanie Denninger
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

The proposed project will enable Solano Land Trust to carry out habitat restoration and grassland management measures at the 2080-acre Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve over the next twenty years. Specifically, the project will develop a comprehensive strategy to:

- Rehabilitate natural ecological processes in degraded areas of Rush Ranch;
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By obtaining CEQA approval for the resulting plan, this project will clear the way for on-the-ground restoration actions to move forward in the tidal marsh and adjacent uplands.

This in turn will contribute to accomplishing the regional goals of Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, jointly administered by the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Solano County, as well as those of the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh, currently being completed by the Suisun Marsh Charter Group, and the Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan, which is being completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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OCT 12 2007

SOLANO LAND TRUST

Services. In order to ensure these regional benefits are realized, Solano Land Trust will participate in the Suisun Marsh Environmental Coordination Advisory Team where it will solicit advice and guidance from the other public agencies and private interests working in the marsh.

With a proven record of preserving agriculture, protecting open space, and managing habitat resources in Solano County, Solano Land Trust is well equipped to take on this project. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Machado', written over a horizontal line.

MICHAEL J. MACHADO
Senator, Fifth District

MJM:bw

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

John M. Vasquez
Board of Supervisors
District 4
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533-6342

(707) 784-6129
jmvasquez@solanocounty.com



Peggy K. Nelson
Board Aide
pknelson@solanocounty.com
(707) 784-6128

FAX (707) 784-6665

October 12, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
Attn: Melanie Denninger
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300,
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

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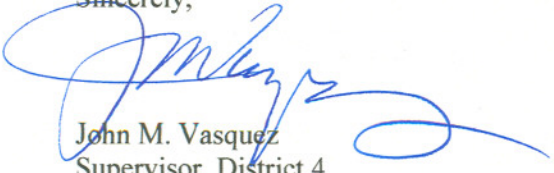
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Sincerely,


John M. Vasquez
Supervisor, District 4

CITY COUNCIL

Pedro "Pete" M. Sanchez, Mayor
Jane Day, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sam Derting
Michael J. Hudson
Michael A. Segala



CITY OF SUISUN CITY

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

First and Third Tuesday
Every Month

October 11, 2007

701 Civic Center Blvd.
Suisun City, California 94585

Incorporated October 9, 1868

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300,
Oakland, CA 94612
Attn: Melanie Denninger

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OCT 17 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

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DEPARTMENTS: AREA CODE (707)

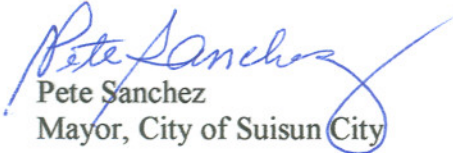
ADMINISTRATION 421-7300 ■ PLANNING 421-7335 ■ BUILDING 421-7310 ■ FINANCE 421-7320
FIRE 425-9133 ■ RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES 421-7200 ■ POLICE 421-7373 ■ PUBLIC WORKS 421-7340
REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY 421-7309 FAX 421-7366

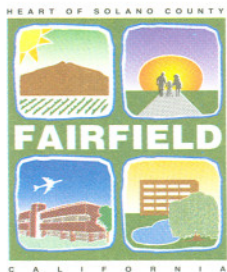
Exhibit 3: Letters of Support

With a proven record of preserving agriculture, protecting open space, and managing habitat resources in Solano County, Solano Land Trust is well equipped to take on this project. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Pete Sanchez
Mayor, City of Suisun City



Home of
Travis Air Force Base

COUNCIL

Mayor
Harry T. Price
707.428.7395

Vice-Mayor
Jack Batson
707.429.6298

Councilmembers
707.429.6298

Marilyn Farley

Frank Kardos

John Mraz

...

City Manager
Kevin O'Rourke
707.428.7400

...

City Attorney
Greg Stepanicich
707.428.7419

...

City Clerk
Arletta Cortright
707.428.7384

...

City Treasurer
Oscar G. Reyes, Jr.
707.428.7496

DEPARTMENTS

Community Services
707.428.7465

...

Finance
707.428.7496

...

Fire
707.428.7375

...

Human Resources
707.428.7394

...

Planning &
Development
707.428.7461

...

Police
707.428.7551

...

Public Works
707.428.7485

CITY OF FAIRFIELD

Founded 1856

Incorporated December 12, 1903

Mayor Harry T. Price

October 8, 2007

Doug Bosco, Chair
Attn: Melanie Denniger
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

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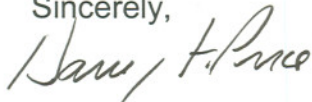
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Doug Bosco, Chair
October 8, 2007
Page 2

Group, and the *Tidal Marsh Ecosystem Recovery Plan*, which is being completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. In order to ensure these regional benefits are realized, Solano Land Trust will participate in the Suisun Marsh *Environmental Coordination Action Team* (ECAT) where it will solicit advice and guidance from the other public agencies and private interests working in the marsh.

With a proven record of preserving agriculture, protecting open space, and managing habitat resources in Solano County, Solano Land Trust is well equipped to take on this project. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Harry T. Price
Mayor

HTP/cma

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OCT 10 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

Exhibit 3: Letters of Support



October 22, 2007

Mr. Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Ste. 1300,
Oakland, CA 94612

Attn: Melanie Denninger

Dear Mr. Bosco,

The Suisun Resource Conservation District (SRCD) supports for the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* project proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy.

The proposed project will enable Solano Land Trust to carry out habitat restoration and grassland management measures at the 2080-acre Rush Ranch Open Space Preserve over the next twenty years. Specifically, the project will develop a comprehensive strategy to:

- Rehabilitate natural ecological processes in degraded areas of Rush Ranch;
- Restore and enhance habitats for listed species such as Suisun thistle, soft bird's beak, salt marsh harvest mouse;
- Reduce the ecological impact of non-native species, such as perennial pepperweed, that have degraded Suisun Marsh in recent years;
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By obtaining CEQA approval for the resulting plan, this project will clear the way for on-the-ground restoration actions to move forward in the tidal marsh and adjacent uplands.

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With a proven record of preserving agriculture, protecting open space, the SRCD strongly encourages the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Steven Chappell
Executive Director

Directors

Timothy Egan
President
Terry Connolly
Arnold Lenk
Tony Vaccarella
Jim Waters

Associate Directors

Tony Arnold
Dennis Becker
Kurt Black
Bill Brush
Alan Douglass
Robin Frost
H. Kent Hansen
Mike Lewis

Directors Emeritus

Gregory Palamountain
James Bancroft
Ray Lewis
Dr. William Coon
Leland Lehman
Paul Crapuchettes

Staff

Steven Chappell
Executive Director
Kelli Perez
Secretary
Bruce Wickland
District Biologist
Kristin Garrison
Biologist
Paul Garrison III
Biologist, Water Manager Program
Jeremy Todoroff
Biologist, Water Manager Program
Vesta Thompson
Account Clerk

**SUISUN RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
2544 Grizzly Island Road
Suisun, CA 94585-9539
(707) 425-9302
(707) 425-4402 FAX
SRCD@SuisunRCD.org



San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

3152 Paradise Drive, Tiburon, CA 94920-1205

Tel (415) 338-3707 Fax (415) 435-7120 Web: www.sfbaynerr.org

October 12, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of Support for Solano Land Trust's Rush Ranch proposal

Dear Mr. Bosco,

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, I write to you today to express my enthusiastic support of the Solano Land Trust's *Rush Ranch Marsh and Upland Design and Management* proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy. It is a truly exciting project that has many benefits.

The Solano Land Trust is a signatory partner in the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, along with San Francisco State University, California State Parks, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and NOAA. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of 27 protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship. This partnership program between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the coastal states protects more than one million acres of estuarine land and water; provides essential habitat for wildlife; offers educational opportunities for students, teachers and the public; and serves as living laboratories for scientists. While the primary research focus of the SF Bay NERR is tidal marsh restoration, our programs reflect our interest in all aspects of habitat restoration. Given this, we are especially interested in seeing projects such as this receive funding.

The proposed project will enable the Solano Land Trust to develop habitat restoration and grassland management measures for Rush Ranch to guide actions over the next twenty years. A comprehensive planning approach that addresses the many changes since the last plan was developed, such as invasive species concerns, is critical to the success of ecological protection. This proposal specifically addresses the broader ecological context of the Suisun Marsh, and thus supports accomplishing the regional goals of other important plans such as the *Suisun Marsh Protection Plan*. Further, both the process and products from this project will benefit the development of the site profile of Rush Ranch as an SF Bay NERR site. We will be collaborating with the Solano Land Trust on the site profile, and thus anticipate contributing to the proposed project.

The Solano Land Trust has a demonstrated record of protecting open space, managing habitat resources in Solano County, and effectively administering these types of projects. I strongly encourage the State Coastal Conservancy to approve this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jaime C. Kooser, Ph.D.
Reserve Manager



San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve is a partnership among National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Francisco State University, California State Parks, Solano Land Trust and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

